

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial No. 09/992,410

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Page 7, lines 11-14:

A lead frame of a sub-stream is forwarded to a next, successive, shelf of the cross-connect. All other frames are forwarded to the frame to the same shelf as the previous frame.

Page 20, lines 3-15:

As explained above, each of the sub-streams 44-28 may be pointer processed in a conventional manner by independent pointer processing state machines within each shelf. Because the SS field in the frame overhead is generally unused, the split indicator passes through each pointer processing state machine unchanged, so that signaling is preserved. It will be appreciated that any other location within the frame may be used to store the split indicator, provided that the selected location is passed through each pointer processor state machine unchanged. An advantage of using the SS field is that this location avoids incurring signaling delay or misconnection of the signals.